



www.cn.ca

E. Hunter Harrison
President and
Chief Executive Officer

935 de La Gauchetière Street West
Montreal, Quebec H3B 2M9
Canada
T 514-399-4800
F 514-399-6896

Président-
directeur général

935, rue de La Gauchetière Ouest
Montréal (Québec) H3B 2M9
Canada
T 514-399-4800
Tc 514-399-6896

July 30, 2008

The Honorable Melissa Bean
U.S. House of Representatives
318 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Bean:

Thank you for your July 23 letter inviting CN to participate in your August 5 informal hearing in Chicago on CN's proposed acquisition of the major portion of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company (EJ&E). With reluctance, I must respectfully decline your invitation to appear.

The stated purpose of this hearing is to assist you and others to "make sound policy decisions regarding transportation issues in Illinois." However, while that is a laudable goal, there have been meetings with you, your colleagues or your respective staff members over the past several months, during which CN has explained the transaction's impacts on local communities, Amtrak, Metra, and the broader Chicago region, and discussed CN's extensive outreach with communities along the EJ&E line. Yet, you and your Congressional colleagues who will be holding the hearing have been consistently outspoken in your opposition to this transaction, and, so far as we can tell, have been unwilling to acknowledge in a positive way any of CN's efforts or the benefits this transaction would provide to rail customers and to dozens of communities in the region.

CN has been actively engaged in the environmental review process on this transaction being undertaken by the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) at the Surface Transportation Board (STB), and we will be participating in the public hearings that will be conducted in late August and early September by SEA. CN also will be continuing to meet with communities along the EJ&E line in an effort to reach voluntary mitigation agreements to address community concerns related to increased train traffic on the EJ&E line.

The Honorable Melissa Bean

Page 2

July 30, 2008

In this context, and in light of your past statements that your goal is to defeat this transaction, we cannot discern any purpose for this hearing other than to further that goal, and our obligations to the public interest and our many stakeholders preclude us from taking any steps to that end.

At a future time, should you and your colleagues be open to considering the benefits of this transaction, as well as CN's efforts to reasonably address environmental impacts in communities along the EJ&E, my staff and I would stand ready to meet again with you to address these matters and to answer questions about our transaction that have not been answered in our prior submissions or in the STB's extensive Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,



E. Hunter Harrison
President and
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Congresswoman Biggert
Congressman Foster
Congressman Manzullo
Congressman Roskam